

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOR EA HOLBROOKE AND NSC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR SOPN CH US TW SHUM
SUBJ: "PEACEFUL LIBERATION" OF TAIWAN

REFS: A) PEKING 1599, B) PEKING 1662

1. SUMMARY: VICE FONMIN HO YING TOLD TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR MEMMI JUNE 1 IF US RECOGNIZED TAIWAN AS CHINESE TERRITORY SUBSEQUENT UNIFICATION WOULD TAKE A LONG TIME AND MILITARY FORCE WOULD NOT BE USED. HO ADDED THAT TAIWAN REUNIFICATION WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF HONG KONG. ONCE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CHINESE TERRITORIAL RIGHTS WAS MADE REUNIFICATION COULD BE DEFERRED. END SUMMARY.

2. TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR MEMMI TOLD DCM JUNE 3 THAT AT JUNE 1 TUNISIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION VICE FONMIN HO YING DISCUSSED PEACEFUL LIBERATION OF TAIWAN WITH HIM. HO YING INITIATED CONVERSATION BY REFERRING TO ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN DISPUTE IN THE WESTERN SAHARA. HO SAID IT WOULD BE BEST FOR BOTH SIDES TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. MILITARY FORCE SHOULD NOT BE USED. THE SOVIETS WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUCH A SITUATION. MOROCCO AND ALGERIA SHOULD PUT DISPUTE TO ONE SIDE AND DEVELOP BETTER
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RELATIONS IN OTHER AREAS BEFORE TRYING FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES IN THE SAHARA.

3. HO YING THEN RAISED TAIWAN AS A CASE IN POINT. HE TOLD AMBASSADOR MEMMI THAT IF THE US RECOGNIZED TAIWAN AS CHINESE TERRITORY, CHINA WOULD NOT USE MILITARY FORCE TO BRING ABOUT REUNIFICATION BUT WOULD PUT PROBLEM OF

REUNIFICATION TO ONE SIDE. HO THEN SAID TAIWAN SOLUTION WOULD BE SIMILAR TO HONG KONG. HONG KONG WAS ALSO CHINESE TERRITORY BUT REUNIFICATION WAS A MATTER FOR THE FUTURE.

4. AMBASSADOR MEMMI, WHEN ASKED, SAID THAT HO YING INITIATED DISCUSSION ABOUT TAIWAN. HO ALSO VOLUNTEERED COMMENT ABOUT THE NON-USE OF MILITARY FORCE. MEMMI DID NOT RAISE SUBJECT AND MERELY LISTENED. HO YING DID NOT MENTION THE STANDARD THREE CONDITIONS CONCERNING TAIWAN. HO YING DREW ANALOGY BETWEEN TAIWAN AND HONG KONG WITHOUT ANY QUESTIONING FROM MEMMI.

5. COMMENT: HO YING'S REMARKS FOLLOW HOT ON THE HEELS OF CHEN YI-SUNG'S STATEMENTS ABOUT PEACEFUL LIBERATION OF TAIWAN (REFTELS). WE MAY BE WITNESSING DELIBERATE CHINESE CAMPAIGN TO CREATE A MORE FAVORABLE CLIMATE ON TAIWAN QUESTION. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT CHINESE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE OFFICIAL PUBLIC ASSURANCES TO US CONCERNING PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OR STATING THAT ARMED FORCE WILL NOT BE USED IN ANY FUTURE "LIBERATION" OF TAIWAN. PRC FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT SUCH PUBLIC ASSURANCES WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE LEGITIMACY OF ITS CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY OVER TAIWAN.
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